

## United States Department of the Interior

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
http://www.blm.gov

## Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic EIS (PEIS) and the Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Report (PER). Together these documents assess, on a National level, the BLM's use of herbicides and describe the environmental effects of using non-herbicide treatment methods, including fire and mechanical, manual, and biological controls.

The Draft PEIS was released for public comment on November 10, 2005 for a 60-day public comment period. On January 9, 2006, the comment period was extended for an additional 30 days until February 10, 2006. Over 3,000 comments have been addressed in the Final PEIS and PER as comment responses and/or changes to the analysis based on the comments received through the public review. Additional information and analysis is included in the FEIS addressing comments related to degradates, use of POEA and R-11 surfactants, and risks associated with endocrine disrupting chemicals. In addition, the FEIS contains subsistence analysis required under Section 801(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

The Final Programmatic EIS assesses five alternative approaches to the use of herbicides to treat vegetation on public lands, details the expected impacts and benefits from the BLM's use of herbicides, and provides analysis to determine which herbicide active ingredients will be approved for use on public lands administered by the BLM in the western United States, including Alaska.

This Final PEIS is available for public review for 30 days. Written comments on the Final PEIS will be accepted until July 30, 2007. Upon evaluation of any comments received, a Record of Decision will be issued or a supplemental analysis undertaken to address any significant information not previously considered within the scope of analysis contained in the Final PEIS. Please send written comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
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Sincerely,

Bud Cribley

Acting Assistant Director,

Renewable Resources and Planning